

How to Prepare for the Digital Television Transition

June 10, 2009

Greetings!

On Friday, June 12th our nation's broadcasters will terminate their analog television signals as part of the digital television (DTV) transition. The DTV transition will provide viewers a better television experience including a clearer picture and better sound quality. In broader ways it will benefit the public because digital television signals are more efficient than analog signals. The DTV transition will free up major portions of the airwaves for public safety communications such as police, fire, and emergency rescue, as well as new wireless broadband services.

After June 12th if you have an analog television set you may need to purchase additional equipment to continue to receive a broadcast signal.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need to do to get ready?

If you currently watch television through a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears," you will have to take the following action now to ensure you have continuous coverage:

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- Click here to apply for a coupon online >> Or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY)
- Click here to find a store in your area that sells the TV converter box >>
- Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box

Your local broadcasters may make the transition before the June 12th deadline and some already have. Digital-to-analog converter boxes are in stores and have a one-time cost of \$40 to \$70. To help you pay for the converter boxes, the U.S. Government is offering two \$40 coupons per household. Because it typically takes nine business days to process and mail coupons, consumers who apply now may not receive their coupons in time for the June 12th deadline.

- Buy a Digital Television (a TV with a built-in digital tuner)

You do not need a High Definition TV (HDTV) to watch digital broadcast television. You only need a digital TV (or an analog TV connected to a digital-to-analog converter box). Depending on the signal strength of the DTV channels some consumers may need to move their existing antenna or purchase a new antenna to improve reception. You can learn more at <http://www.antennaweb.org>.

- Subscribe to a Paid TV Service (such as cable or satellite TV)

If your TV set receives local broadcast stations through a paid provider such as cable or satellite TV, it is already prepared for the DTV transition. Cable companies are not required to transition or switch any of their channels to digital. However, if you have an analog TV that does not receive local broadcast stations through your paid provider, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to watch digital broadcasts on that TV.

If you have a converter box, a digital television, or subscribe to a paid TV service such as cable or satellite TV, you're ready for the transition.

For More Information:

- Call 1-888-CALL-FCC (Voice) or 1-888-TELL-FCC (TTY)
- DTV Made Easy (.pdf) >>
- Frequently Asked Questions >>
- Visit the website www.dtv.gov >>

- Learn how to install your converter box (.pdf)>>
- Visit DTVanswers.com to watch a video on how to install your converter box>>

As always, I rely on the thoughts and ideas of my constituents on the issues you care about, so I more than welcome hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo

Member of Congress